

**ENCLOSURES FOR OUTDOOR POOLS
AND PERMANENTLY INSTALLED SPAS & HOT TUBS**
(2003 USBC/International Residential Code)

**ANY OUTDOOR STRUCTURE USED FOR SWIMMING OR RECREATIONAL BATHING
HAVING ANY ONE OF THE FOLLOWING;**

- (1) CONTAINING WATER MEASURING OVER 24 INCHES OF WATER DEPTH**
- (2) EXCEEDING 5000 GALLONS**
- (3) 150 SQUARE FEET OF SURFACE AREA**

**MUST BE PROTECTED BY A BARRIER WHICH MEETS THE FOLLOWING
REQUIREMENTS:**

- 1. The top of barrier at least 48 inches above the grade opposite the pool side. Maximum vertical clearance at bottom is 2 inches. Part or all of barrier may be pool structure such as walls of an above ground pool.
- 2. No opening shall allow a 4 inch sphere to pass through.
- 3. Solid barriers (masonry, stone) shall have no climbable surface. In open barriers with horizontal members less than 45 inches apart (top to top), spaces between vertical members shall not exceed 1.75 inches and the horizontal members shall be on the pool side.
- 4. Maximum mesh size for chain link fence is 2.25 inches unless slats are secured so that no opening is more than 1.75 inches.
- 5. If diagonal members are used, maximum opening size is 1.75 inches.
- 6. Pedestrian access gates must open away from the pool only and be self-closing and self-latching. If release is less than 54 inches from bottom of gate, it must be on pool side at least 3 inches below top of gate and shall have no openings greater than .5 inch within 18 inches of the release.
- 7. If a structure wall serves as part of the barrier, the following applies:
 - (a) Provide powered safety cover which complies with ASTM F1346; or
 - (b) Provide alarms on all doors leading into pool area which produces an audible warning heard throughout the house when the door and screen, if present, is opened. Alarm must sound continuously for at least 30 seconds; automatically reset; be equipped with touchpad or switch to temporarily deactivate alarm for single opening (such deactivation shall last for not more than 15 seconds and such switch shall be mounted at least 54 inches above the door threshold); or
 - (c) Other means of protection, such as self-closing doors with self-latching devices, which are approved by the governing body, shall be acceptable so long as the degree of protection afforded is not less than the protection afforded by Item #7 (a) & (b) above. (Subject to approval).
- 8. Where the structure of an above ground pool is used as a barrier, any ladders must be capable of being secured, locked, removed or provided with barriers as above.
- 9. Barriers shall be so located that surrounding structures, equipment or similar objects cannot be utilized to gain access from outside the pool area.